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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 16 | Humidity 57% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 59,543 | Nifty 17,656 | Gold 50,699 | Silver 57,833 | Dollar 82.58 | Euro 82.11 | GBP 94.52

Bangalore Mirror wishes you a very happy Deepawali

Our offices and press will remain closed on Wednesday on account of Deepawali. So you'll miss seeing us at your doorstep on Thursday, October 27. Log on to www.bangaloremirror.com or follow @BangaloreMirror on Twitter for all the buzz about Bengaluru and beyond

With one-way vehicle passage (heavy vehicles too), experts discuss purpose of cobblestone streets and high maintenance cost

NO STONE UNTURNED

Cobblestones on Church Street came undone twice

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Urbanists have raised concern about the sustainability of cobblestone pathways pointing specifically to the state of affairs at Church Street.

They objected to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's proposal to spend Rs 4.8 crore annually for 15-km of TenderSURE roads including Church Street. The BBMP however stated it has no plans to relay the stretch.

The root of the problem lies in heavy vehicles coming to service hotels in the vicinity using the street. Church Street was laid in 2018 with the assurance of two years under TenderSure at a cost of Rs 18 crore.

Additionally, the stretch was renovated with cobblestones at the cost of Rs 9 crore. The BBMP along with DULT had chosen Church Street for the pilot project to prioritise

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"We will erect high barriers, ask traffic police to bar heavy vehicle entry — BS Prahalad, chief engineer, BBMP

Bikes, Fatal Falls & Flyovers

33-year-old techie loses balance, falls to death from Electronic City flyover on Monday

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The Electronic City flyover is turning out to be 'fatal' for bikers as one more biker has fallen to death. This has renewed debate whether motorcycles should be allowed or not on the flyover.

The 33-year-old techie from Hyderabad lost balance and fell to his death on Monday. This is a gruesome reminder of repeated accidents involving motorcyclists on the flyover. Two bikers were thrown out of a flyover in September last year after a car hit their bike.

"We have seen enough accidents here; now we need measures like not allowing bikes on the flyover. It is up to the city police to take action," traffic expert MN Sreehari told BM.

So, what ails the Electronic City flyover, the longest flyover in the city? According to Sreehari, the adequate width of a flyover should be at least 8.5 m: "The width of the Electronic City flyover is just 6.5 m. As per international standards, there should be excess space in the flyover along

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Hot beats

Foxtrot Marathahalli presents" The Saturday Pill" with DJ Rhea. For the uninitiated, Rhea has been playing music since 9 years, focusing on various kinds of genres and recently started playing live darbuka (percussion instrument) along with her Dj sets. She started her career in Kolkata with few music festivals, went on to play for IPL KKR post parties & moved to Bangalore later for good. She has played for many reputed nightclubs, weddings & corporate events all across India.

Where: Foxtrot, Marathahalli, Outer Ring Road
When: Oct 29, 8 pm onwards; Info: +91 91081 36001

02 Checkmate, peeps!

Bangalore Chess Club is an open chess community to join and be a part of! Come, play on the board chess with everyone, banter, trash talk and have fun! Bring your chess sets along.

Where: Lahe Lahe; When: October 30, 10 am – 1 pm
Tickets: 9886294444

03 Chronic Blues Circus

The Chronic Blues Circus is Bangalore's oldest band which has been performing without a break since 1991. Over the decades they have performed in some of the most music loving venues across the country. Their repertoire consists primarily of the Jazz and Blues, Retro Pop, Soul, Reggae, Rock n Roll, Soft Rock and Folk Music. This Friday Night Unplugged @ Urban Solace you can experience the core members of the band Aarushi Pareek and Peter Isaac perform an exclusive set of the most loved songs in a new and intimate setting. The evening promises to me magical and memorable in the same moment.

Where: Urban Solace, Annaswamy Mudaliar Road
When: October 28, 8 pm – 10 pm
Contact: 9845013055, 9945022177

Want a bite?

The partial solar eclipse -- resembling an apple --was seen on Tuesday in Bengaluru. Sky-gazers were seen peering up with their solar goggles.

It's all about looks: New-age men agree

More and more men especially millennials and Gen Zs are seeking aesthetic treatment to look their best

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Gone are the days when people thought that it is only women who were concerned about their looks and went all out to maintain picture-ready. Men who belong to the generation of millennials and Gen Zs today are equally conscious about their lifestyle and appearance and skincare regime.

Men, like women, want to look good and presentable and feel good about themselves, and are increasingly turning to cosmetic treatments to improve their appearance. Many doctors have observed over 20 per cent rice in incidence of men coming forward for aesthetic treatment, however it is exciting as the stigma of these types of procedures are now reducing for men. The millennials and Gen Z generations are more receptive to the concept of grooming, aesthetics, and beauty.

Thirty-year-old Mahesh (name changed), faced the dilemma of a condition called Melasma, where brown patches appear on the face that could occur due to personal and environmental factors. He visited the doctor worried and wanted to get himself treated.

Demand for grooming products for men and products applied in between procedures done on men have also increased

Like Mahesh, other men too no longer shy away from seeking aesthetic procedures.

Dr Sunil Kumar Prabhu, Consultant Dermatologist and Aesthetic Physician, Aster RV Hospitals said, "Men coming for aesthetic treatments have increased in number. The reasons could be to look more appealing at work, better job prospects, better chances of finding a partner and upward mobility to travel to other parts of the world where male grooming is quite rampant. Even cosmetic products applied in between procedures have seen a rise in demand and male products for grooming in the last one decade mirroring the fact that self-aesthetic care already has started by the male himself. Also, when any dermatological disease is treated Indian males tend to show residual pigmentation of skin which males want to treat compared to two or three decades ago."

Reconstructive and Plastic Surgeon Dr Gunasekar Vuppalapati CMD, GVG InVivo Hospital, JP Nagar, pointed out that treatments in men like micrograft hair transplant, vaser lipo correction of gynecomastia, high-definition body sculpting, botox and fillers have increased." As these procedures don't leave any tell-tale signs of any treatment, yet give them an aesthetic enhancement by boosting their self-confidence, they are highly popular.

> **"Reasons could be to look good at work, find better job prospects, or find a partner**
>
> – Dr Sunil Kumar Prabhu, Aster RV Hospitals

At times, men even outnumber women when it comes to such treatments. Dr Vaishali Kamat, Head Medical Aesthetics, Dr Batra's Healthcare said, "It is noticed that men go for aesthetic treatments such as body sculpting treatments to achieve toned muscles, laser treatments for facial hair growth to flaunt a thick beard, and skin enhancement treatments like hydrafacials and so on to get rid of acne, hyperpigmentation and uneven skin tone. Men suffering from conditions such as gynecomastia are prone to resorting to treatments that involve the reduction of fat deposits. These treatments help to boost self-esteem, and higher self-esteem equals higher societal performance."

While these aesthetic treatments are breaking taboos for men, it does come with side effects. Dr Vuppalapati added that almost like Newton's law, there is no effect without side effects. However, the side effects are often minor while the effect is aesthetic, major and longer when done carefully and properly. The results and side effects depend mainly on the experience of the treating doctor, team, technology, safe facility, and most importantly aftercare.

'Tis the season of change, folks!

As temperatures plummet to as low as 12.6 degrees Celsius (in Yelahanka), weather experts say we are slowly transitioning into winter

Clear skies and chilly winds are here (file image)

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If you've been wondering whether winter has set in early in Bengaluru this year, you're not alone. The biting cold and chilly winds has had many planning for the season ahead.

However, experts say that the weather with clear skies is still in the transitional phase from the rainy season to winter.

According to the Bengaluru Varuna Mitra website, temperature in a few areas dipped to as low as 12.6 degree Celsius (Yelahanka). As per the website, Bengaluru South recorded a minimum of 11.7 degree Celsius, Dasarahalli 13.3 degree Celsius. The maximum variation was seen in RR Nagar where the minimum was between 12.7 and 30.6 degree Celsius.

According to the Bengaluru Weather tweet, the 'minimum temperature according to the observatory was 15.4 degree Celsius making it the coolest October since 2008. The outskirts were even cooler as a private weather station near Sarjapur recorded a minimum of 12.5 degree Celsius'.

GS Srinivas Reddy, senior consultant at Karnataka Disaster Management Authority (KDMA) said, "We are currently in a transitional phase. However, one can actually feel the cold during early mornings. In fact, the southwest monsoon has officially withdrawn from the city on October 23, two days earlier than last year (October 25, 2022). Last year, the north east monsoon's arrival coincided with the withdrawal of SW monsoon. However, this year, the IMD has not yet declared the onset of NE monsoon as currently, the Sitrang cyclone is still active."

This is the wettest year for Bengaluru, according to data. According to KSNDMC, Bengaluru has recorded 1,154 mm of rainfall (from January 1 to October 25, 2022) as against the average of 630 mm. Out of 1,154 mm, 870 mm rainfall was recorded since June 1 (around 79 per cent more than the average rainfall). Karnataka has received 1,426 mm of rainfall as against the average of 1,085 mm which is 31 pc more than the average (Jan 1 to October 25). Reddy said that as of now there has been no prediction of this year's impending cyclones.

Experts say that the cold season will intensify by December end and will continue till Jan 15. Meanwhile, doctors say that people need to exercise caution and kids need to be extremely careful.

Dr Rajaram R (Consultant - General Pediatrics, Rainbow Children's Hospital, Marathahalli) said, "Children have more sensitive and delicate skin compared to adults which makes them more prone to losing moisture rapidly. This becomes even more problematic during winter months when the air is cold, dry and has less moisture. We commonly see dry and chapped lips, red cheeks, cracks, dry and itchy skin during winter months." Use of moisturiser (thick, greasy moisturisers without perfume) frequently especially immediately after bath (pat dry the skin after bath and apply moisturiser), use of lukewarm water than hot water for bathing, reducing wind exposure, covering the skin appropriately and most importantly staying hydrated are useful ways to handle this common problem, he said.

> **The southwest monsoon has officially withdrawn on October 23**
>
> – GS Srinivas Reddy, KDMA

Health Dept issues fresh Covid advisory

The State Health Department has issued a covid advisory in light of new covid sub-variant Omicron BQ.1 (US variant) BA.2.3.20 being reported and the XBB, which is a recombinant of BA.2.75 and BJ.1, being reported in Maharashtra. The move also comes as it is the festive season and Kannada Rajyotsava is also round the corner.

Those symptomatic (signs of fever, cough, cold, sore throat, breathing difficulty) have to compulsorily get tested immediately at the nearest hospital/ health centre and be self-isolated till the results are received. Those with breathing difficulties must seek urgent medical care, preferably in a hospital.

"Face masking while indoors, in places with air-conditioning, not well-ventilated areas, closed places, in crowds and in health facilities (N-95/medical masks) should be mandatory. It is very important that elderly and Co-morbid wear face masks in public areas. Those who are due for booster/precautionary dose of vaccination should get vaccinated. It is important that those who are aged 60 years and above, and with co-morbidities (particularly not naturally infected previously) should get vaccinated early. Those who are immune-deficient and immunosuppressed, on renal dialysis, taking anticancer drugs, etc. are advised to get vaccinated on priority basis in consultation with their treating doctor," said Randeep. D, Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare Department.

> **Symptomatic people must get tested and be self-isolated till results are declared**

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Stormwater drains for cash

Varthur residents seek urgent stop to rampant encroachment

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The actual size of the stormwater drain in Varthur (above); the narrowed down stormwater drain (below)

Environment conscious residents of Varthur in Mahadevapura Assembly constituency are worried about the fate of stormwater drains in their locality. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner, State Revenue Minister R Ashok ,and even Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai issued statements on the need for clearing encroachments on them to avoid flooding whenever it rains in the city.

However, residents of Varthur complain that the BBMP Stormwater Drains Department engineers are not restoring the width of the stormwater drains in the area because of rampant corruption or pressure from local politicians.

They said that despite many environmental laws, National Green Tribunal, Supreme Court guidelines, and court orders, nothing has ever changed on the ground, but the same laws and guidelines are effectively being used for extortion by people in power and BBMP engineers.

They opined that unless the 'kaluves for cash' scam in East Bengaluru is probed by the Green Court and culprits are brought to justice, the mockery of the judiciary would never stop. "The encroachment of rajakaluves in Varthur village is one such classic example of the rampant corruption involving political brokers and corrupt officials. I request the intervention of the judiciary and media to protect people from imminent corruption, deluge, and loss of life and properties," said a resident of Varthur who wants BBMP authorities to ensure no flooding in the area during monsoon by restoring stormwater drains to their original size.

The locals also said that BBMP authorities are issuing notices to property owners next to rajakaluves, summoning them to visit the BBMP office for documentation. "Once they are in the Revenue or the BBMP office, the property owners will be terrorised with consequences. Panicked property owners reach out to the brokers who can mediate the issue. The local politicians (brokers), conniving with officials, assure these owners to safeguard for cash and allegiance towards their political party," said a resident.

> **The Stormwater Drains Department is not responsible for any omissions and commissions by the Revenue Department**
> –Malathi, BBMP Executive Engineer

It is said that the KR Puram Tahsildar has issued notices to people who own properties along the stormwater drains that were allegedly encroachments. The notice stated that they have to clear the encroachments within seven days.

Meanwhile, BBMP Stormwater Drains Executive Engineer Malathi has made it clear that the Revenue Department has to prepare the list of owners who have encroached the stormwater drains. "The Stormwater Drains Department is not responsible for any omissions and commissions by the Revenue Department. We will act as per the final report submitted by the revenue department," said the Executive Engineer.

She made it clear that engineers of the Stormwater Drains Department would not succumb to any pressure from local leaders or politicians.

'False assurances' plague Croma Road

Little ponds formed by potholes and waste adorn the slushy road

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Croma Road in Balagere, laid in 2019, has been reduced to a slushy trail over the past three years. Officials say that a part of the road is on a tertiary rajakaluve. The shortest distance to the Outer Ring Road (ORR) for residents of Balagere is through Croma Road, but it is a tedious task during rains. The railway underbridge (RUB) constantly floods as well. According to residents, the situation mostly occurs during rains, and people with medical emergencies have no choice but to wait as well.

With the Balagere Road constantly congested, residents have been taking the shortcut via Croma Road to reach ORR. It is particularly tough on a two-wheeler due to thick layers of mud. Residents say that the problem started when the road was dug up for utility work. The minor irrigation department undertook the laying of the pipeline for the Balagere STP. A resident of the area, Parth, said, "Before, the roads were not accessible at night as there were no streetlights. But with the road completely dug up, it has become unusable for walking or driving." Commuters avoiding Croma Road have to use a much longer route from Kundalahalli- Marathahalli-kadubeesanahalli. According to residents, officials say that it is a temporary road to pacify them, but they wonder why buildings are being permitted to be constructed. The delay has been pushing traffic stress to other roads. According to sources, there were also plans to widen the road, but it has not come to light. Another frustrated local said, "Every time it rains, the residents of apartments along the road lose connectivity to the rest of Bangalore. My neighbour suffered from heart problems and we could not immediately take him to hospital. Ambulances keep getting stuck on the road," they said. They added that even the pipeline laid for the Balagere STP leaks water onto the surface and turns the road into a mess.

However, according to officials, the road was dug up for laying pipelines for the Balagere STP. "Once the rains stop, asphalting will be undertaken by the MI department." said Clement Jayakumar of MTF Mobility. He clarified that the road was converted into a permanent road, but a portion of it lies on a tertiary rajakaluve.

Residents are planning a protest and authorities have assured to restore the road within a week.

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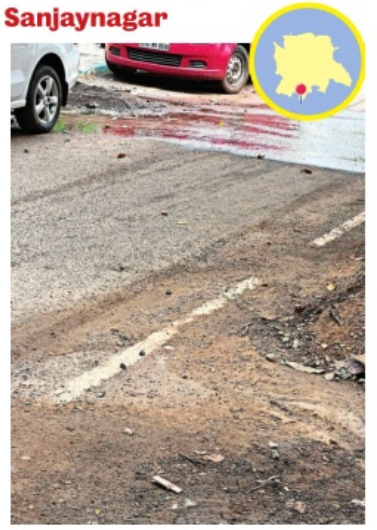
Correction required

Tate Lane

The signboard should just be for 'Tate lane', but it reads 'Wood Street'. pLease correct it.

Overflowing drains

Sanjaynagar



There are multiple overflowing drains in 15th cross, AECS Layout, 2nd stage Sanjaynagar.

Blocked stretch

Jayanagar

The pavement on 33rd Cross, Meghana Foods, 4th Block, Jayanagar is blocked.

1 suffers near vision loss; several injured

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A 19-year old has almost lost his vision while many have suffered from partial vision loss during the ongoing Deepawali celebrations. BL Sujatha Rathod, Director of Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, said, "Out of 15 patients, one has poor vision with less chance of getting vision back. Another patient has poor vision though there is hope for improvement. Around five of them have partial vision loss and these patients must go for regular follow-up. There are seven cases where the patients have suffered mild loss to normal vision."

Dr. Shailesh Shetty S (Consultant - Emergency Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital) said they have received three cases of injuries through firecrackers. "Two are men, who suffered minor burns on their hands and one is a four-year-old who suffered a minor eye injury. The adults were injured while lighting up a flower pot firecracker with their bare hands. The child was a bystander who got injured through a sparkler cracker. All cases were minor and they were discharged the same day," he said.

On precautions he said, avoid loose clothing and heroics. "In case of heat injury, hold the affected part under running water for a few minutes and immediately visit the nearest hospital," he said.

Eclipse effect

Tuesday afternoon to evening was eerily quiet however, thanks to the partial solar eclipse. "Many streets were deserted on Tuesday as there is a belief that one should not venture out or eat anything during an eclipse. But, as soon as the sun had set, the sounds were back as well as the pollution," said Rajesh Gowda, a resident of Vijaynagar.

Walk with care

With Wednesday being the last day of the festival, doctors have suggested that it is while walking through the lanes that one needs to be most careful. "Many of the firecracker injury victims are bystanders. They were either watching from a distance or walking on the road. This has once again brought the issue to the fore that people need to be extremely cautious while riding or walking on the road during Deepawali," said Dr Shilpa S, a medical practitioner. She said people are advised to use the main roads as much as possible and avoid interior roads. "It is better not to allow kids to play in places where someone is bursting crackers. And of course, those who burst crackers need to exercise extreme caution," she said.

A boisterous burst, late into the night

Though in some areas of city crackers kept going off till after midnight, citizens note dip in noise, pollution over the years

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Despite restrictions on timings to burst crackers, residents from different parts of Bengaluru complained of crackers going off way into the night. However, some said that sustained awareness and recent norms did result in a reduction in the activity.

Just before the festival, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) announced a two-hour slot for bursting crackers in the city from 8 pm to 10 pm. However, the rule seems to be hard to enforce as the festive spirit takes over. In some areas, residents said that there was hardly any cracker bursting and in some areas, it went on late into the night. But one thing all residents agreed on is that Bengalurueans have to take a phenomenal shift towards phasing out the practice.

A resident of Indiranagar Vani told BM that the cracker bursting went on till 1 am. "My dogs were terrified and now and then a loud cracker would startle me. At 12:30 am, we also informed the cops regarding the situation," she said.

Christopher from HRBR Layout said that the cracker kept going off extending beyond 10 pm. "There are a lot of senior citizens and heart patients in the area. Sudden cracker bursts can be risky for such patients," he added.

However, some residents feel that the firecracker bursting has drastically come down. "Compared to the last 30-40 years, this practice is now waning. Schools have played a vital role in creating awareness and maybe in the next 5-10 years, the practice might just be phased out," said Govardhan Murthy.

> **"Timings announced by the pollution control board is a good first step. Enforcement can have a high impact. Cases of penalty can have a deterrent effect**

Citizens also observed that it might be difficult for the restrictions to be enforced taking into consideration the festive spirit associated and the sheer number of people involved.

Common interest

Residents of some areas suggested a more organised method of bursting crackers at common open spaces to prevent disturbance in residential areas. "Rules are one thing and the implementation is another issue. There were a lot of fire-cracker bursting in this area. Relatively, the number has come down though. The implementation of such a rule is also a challenge as there are not enough police officials to monitor each area. We should be moving to a common area system for fire-cracker bursting as followed in western countries. It would ensure that people only use green crackers and celebrate safely," said R Rajagopalan of JP Nagar.

"Two years ago, I made an effort to bring in all the residents of our road to celebrate together. In this way, we reduce the total number of crackers we burn otherwise. Immediately after this, we clean up the place and fill it up in sacks, making it very easy for the pourakarmikas and the garbage collectors. Many people of our age have lost interest in bursting crackers," said Dhruv, a resident of AG's Layout in Uttarahalli.

Waste management activists also highlighted the importance of having separate bins for fire-cracker refuse. "Timings announced by the pollution control board is a good first step. Enforcement can have a high impact. A few cases of penalty if well-publicised will have a deterrent effect in the future too. With increasing awareness of the ill-impact of crackers, many are voluntarily opting for 'More Lights, Less Noise' celebrations, as our Beautiful Bharat campaign encourages. We also built a way to have cleaner streets the morning after, requesting residents to segregate toxic cracker waste. This ensures a better chance of recycling and reduces waste in landfill," said Odette Katrak, Co-founder of Beautiful Bharat.

Dent on the road festivities

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What is a festival in the city, if we can't include its most common entities in the celebrations? We mean potholes, and a social activist did just that.

Naveen K, a resident of BTM Layout and an activist, was seen bursting crackers in the potholes at Silk Board, Bannerghatta Main Road and BTM Layout 29 Main Road.

Naveen alleged that he has made multiple attempts in the past few months to complain to the local authorities about the wear and tear of the road, but so far nothing has been done to fix the road.

So he decided to light flower pot, chakras, sparklers and bombs at the different locations.

"These roads have been in a terrible state. At BTM Layout, asphalting was done six months ago and slowly the tar has started to peel off. There are many potholes on the stretch and people are finding it difficult to commute," Naveen said.

About the Bannerghata Main Road he said that though it used by hundreds of commuters, the ongoing metro work has messed up the scene there. "There are instances where bikers have had accidents on this stretch. This apart, there is a lot of dust due to the ongoing work."

Aradhya T, a resident of Bannerghata said when his friend and he were riding on the BTM Layout 29 th Road, they had a close shave. "It was raining and the streets were water-logged. We couldn't even see the potholes and rode over it. The bike shook and we were about to fall."

A resident of Benson town said every road in the city is broken, reduced in size and choked with traffic. "Despite the number of incidents of accidents due to potholes, the civic agency is not showing any interest to fix roads. The quality of asphalting on roads is so poor that it is washed away in no time. At some places, only patch work is carried out, which leaves the road uneven," they said.

It might not be too late for Yelenahalli Lake

Activists, residents express concern over deteriorating water quality, ask BBMP to take action immediately

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The Yelenahalli lake in Begur is one of the most beautiful lakes in the city. It is visited by a large number of people and many species of birds. While it was recently rejuvenated by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the water quality of the lake has been deteriorating slowly.

The Yelenahalli Lake is a small independent upstream of Akshayanagara Lake in the Bommanhalli zone. It is about 4.5 acres large and is 911m above sea level. A large number of residents have in the past carried out drives to keep the lake clean.

In 2019, there was rampant garbage dumping at the lake premises and even encroachers occupying the lake. The Palike took up the task of rejuvenating the lakes and created a walkway, a jogging pathway, and created diversion channels.

However, over the years the lake's state is deteriorating and activists suggest BBMP take action before it is too late.

65 different species of birds visit the lake including Common moorhen, Pond heron, White-breasted hen, Cormorant, Brahminy Kite, Eurasian coot & Little grebe. The lake has decent vegetation and it has ample scope for the plantation of fruit-bearing trees.

Raghavendra B Pachhapur from ActionAid Association said, "The water quality in the Yelenahalli Lake has deteriorated for two reasons – untreated water has entered the lake and secondly as harvested plants are lying on the bund area have slipped to water. More matters in the lake waters contribute to increasing in Biochemicals Oxygen Demand (BOD) as it gets decomposed, thereby reducing the oxygen levels in the Lake waters. BBMP should clear all the matters lying in the lake waters and monitor catch drains."

Raghvendra on a visit to the lake also noticed muddy and grey water overflow from the roadside flowing directly to the lake. "There is a need for directing all roadside water flow to a suspension pond and later to the waterbody. A portion lake seemed swamped, BBMP need to investigate if there is seepage from the bund or water from the walking path flown in an opposite direction of the lake," Pachhapur added.

It was pointed out that the cleaning of the sewage diversion channel is needed. The height of the present drain seems to be small and even a small blockage will let all the sewage into the water body.

Should bikes be allowed on flyovers?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with two/three lanes. As per the standard design, there should be at least 3.5 m for one lane and a two-lane flyover should be at least 8.5 m with 7 m for two lanes and 1.5 m of excess space for emergencies. Now, the two lanes are enough for two vehicles on the flyover. In past accidents, we have seen that a biker gets sandwiched when there are two cars going at a high speed.

There is literally no space. However, this fault was rectified in the other flyovers like Airport Road expressway. So, now the only option is to not allow bikes on the flyover. However, as the bikes are tolled on this flyover and 60% of road users being bikers, the NHAI also doesn't want to lose the revenue. We can see the lower width in Peenya flyover as well. I urge the city police to take strict action."

Considering the previous flyover accidents, the city police had asked the concessionaires to have proper surveillance mechanisms equipped with CCTVs. Police had suggested strict patrolling so that no one stops on lay-bys for 'sightseeing' as lay-bys are meant for parking vehicles in case of a vehicle breakdown.

The police had also suggested that personnel should constantly monitor the stretch via CCTV and through speakers warn the people not to park on the highway. However, these measures are yet to fall in place.

According to another traffic expert, in these specific sections, the bikers are colliding with parapet walls due to the mismatch in actual speed of vehicles and the safe speed (governed by the road geometry).

It is because of this mismatch that the drivers lose control and end up breaching the boundary.

"Authorities should identify the extent of mismatch on specific sections through proper technical study and rectify by introducing adequate and proper speed calming measures," the expert said.

Another expert noted: "We can also think of installing crash barriers next to the side walls on the flyovers. These barriers can be fixed next to the wall and can act as a deterrent when a biker hits it. It doesn't occupy much of the space but needs proper marking."

However, police said there are no proposals to ban bikes as of now as per the terms and conditions of the agreements signed between the National Highways Authority of India and private concessionaires.

Fatal flyover accidents

- **January 4, 2016:** A biker falls down and dies from Kasturi Nagar flyover
- **March 14, 2017:** A biker falls to death from Mysuru Road flyover
- **October 13, 2017:** Two people on bike falls to death from Electronic City flyover
- **March 23, 2018:** A techie dies after falling from Electronic City flyover
- **October 22, 2018:** A father and son fall to death from Avalahalli flyover
- **April 15, 2019:** Two including truck driver fall to death after vehicle falls off from Yeshwantpur flyover (this was not a bike accident but refers to vehicle falling off from flyover)
- **Feb 14, 2020:** A 21-year old biker falls from flyover and dies near Arasinakunte after vehicle hits him
- **February 14, 2020:** A pillion rider falls to death at Nagarbhavi flyover
- **October 25, 2022:** A 33-year-old biker hits parapet wall of Electronic City flyover, falls to death

Corrigendum: In Bangalore Mirror's October 25 edition, in the story 'Tourism Minister in soup over pricey gifts', CP Yogeshwara was erroneously referred to as the Tourism Minister. The error is regretted.

Pedestrian-only Church Street?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pedestrians namely Church Street First. During weekends, traffic was not permitted on the street.

The project faced vehement opposition and failed to take off in full swing. With one-way vehicle passage allowed, experts are now questioning the purpose of cobblestones and the allied heavy maintenance cost. This year alone, the cobblestones on Church Street came undone twice causing inconvenience for motorists and pedestrians.

Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation said with a lot of residential houses in the central business district, stopping traffic on Church Street was a big inconvenience. "This is high maintenance work for the BBMP; perhaps they should consider making it a pedestrian-only street. Though Church Street First was a good step and should be continued, the civic body should have clarity on the purpose of laying cobblestones."

Rajkumar Dugar of Citizens for Change (C4C) said BBMP needs to be transparent about the maintenance period of the contractors as huge amounts of money have been spent: "There are plenty of potholes already in the city; utilisation of funds in this manner is a waste. Potholes have been responsible for many accidents and deaths. BBMP should rethink Church Street in terms of Indian conditions instead of adopting western concepts. Cobblestones are neither pedestrian nor vehicle friendly. Even one displaced stone may cause inconvenience to the elderly or disabled."

Urbanist Nagesh Aras questioned the purpose of cobblestones : "Cobblestones as per European concept are built to withstand snow and serve only optics. These work when it is a pedestrian-only street. People walking through pedestrian-only streets need to be engaged with activities along the stretch. On Church Street, there is no such activity or a famous location to admire. It's largely a commercial area creating an inevitable demand for heavy vehicle passage. Besides, the footpaths on Church Street are wide enough for the passage of two people. BBMP needs to rethink Church Street."

"Granite cobbles can be sustainable for vehicle passage provided that it's constructed as per technical specifications. Any roads should be constructed as per Indian Road Congress (IRC) rules but unfortunately, poor quality work hinders any good work. IRC standards and specifications are proven methods; contractors and agencies must adhere to the rules." said Dr HK Ramaraju, professor and head of civil engineering department at Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering.

However, BBMP officials said they have no intention of relaying the stretch with asphalt or white-topping but will take steps to protect the area. "Church Street with cobblestones was proposed for both vehicles and pedestrians but the passage of heavy vehicles like tankers have led to the rupture of cobblestones. Cobblestones can endure the weight of motor vehicles up to cars. To stop this practice, we will erect high barriers and ask traffic police officials to bar heavy vehicle entry," said BBMP chief engineer BS Prahalad.

Another official clarified that granite is stronger than asphalt. "Hotels in the vicinity bringing heavy vehicles for unloading are loosening the joints. Strength-wise, cobblestones are stronger than asphalt," he added.

HEALTH TIP: Fibre, healthy fats, and vitamin C-rich avocados help in reducing the risk of heart diseases

Antioxidant-rich pomegranate helps to keep inflammation at bay and promotes urinary health

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FOGGED

What is – and what isn't – 'brain fog'?

The pandemic has introduced many scientific and medical terms into our everyday language. Many of us are now fluent in conversations about viral strains, PCR tests and mortality rates. "Brain fog" has joined these ranks to describe a now-familiar symptom of covid.

But what exactly is brain fog, and is it limited to covid?

It is what it sounds like

Brain fog is not a medical diagnosis, but rather the description patients tend to use for their symptoms. Brain fog is what doctors refer to as "cognitive dysfunction". This describes problems with closely linked tasks such as concentration, information processing, memory, thinking and reasoning, and making sense of language.

Brain fog is exactly what it sounds like: a feeling something like being shrouded by a thick fog, not quite able to grasp ideas, feeling confused or disoriented, and having trouble concentrating or recalling memories.

Sufferers describe experiences with brain fog as lapses in memory and concentration, with some saying they "put food on the gas stove and walked away for over an hour, only noticing when they were burning".

Other people say they "forget how to do normal routines like running a meeting at work".

Brain fog can make even simple tasks like grocery shopping very difficult: navigating the car park, remembering a list of items to buy, switching attention between products and prices, and reading ingredients can be confusing, overwhelming and exhausting.

Brain fog can be unpleasant in the short term, but over time can make it difficult to work and maintain social activities. Brain fog can also take a toll on relationships, and change the way we see ourselves personally and professionally.

One recent study asked people with long covid about their experiences with brain fog. They reported feeling guilt and shame, especially about how brain fog had affected their ability to return to work and their relationships.

While the symptoms of brain fog can be similar to those experienced by people with Alzheimer's disease and other conditions associated with older age, brain fog can affect people of any age. Brain fog doesn't usually worsen over time, and may not last forever.

Linked to covid

Brain fog was one of the most common symptoms in the first months of the covid pandemic.

Recent reports suggest that 20-30% of people have brain fog three months after infection. Up to 85% of people with long covid also have brain fog.

Although we're hearing a lot about brain fog in relation to covid, people experience the symptom with many other diseases and disorders.

Scientists aren't sure whether the same biological processes underpin brain fog in different illnesses; however, brain fog is common among people recovering from traumatic brain injury, experiencing persistent post-concussion symptoms, with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, HIV, postural tachycardia syndrome, lupus, post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome, and as a side-effect of chemotherapy. People with coeliac disease may even experience brain fog after consuming gluten. It's also been reported as a symptom of menopause.

> **If you think you are experiencing brain fog, it would be good to note down your symptoms and track them**

What causes it?

While covid may cause shrinkage of some brain areas, brain fog itself has not been linked to brain volume changes on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans.

However, a new case report of two people found that while they had normal clinical MRI findings, they also had decreases in oxygen use in a specific part of the brain called the cingulate cortex. This area, within the limbic system, is thought to be involved in attention and memory.

There isn't one single test for brain fog, so it can be difficult to diagnose. Although there are combinations of tests that can be used, formal testing may not always be helpful because symptoms can look different for each person, and some days may be worse than others.

How do you know if you have it?

Traditional assessments can test a person's executive function and cognitive status. But findings have been mixed in people with brain fog due to covid.

Some studies have found more problems with attention and executive function in people who have had covid. Cognitive deficits linked to brain fog have also been reported as worse for those with more severe covid infection.

But other researchers have found standard cognitive screening tests don't show good specificity for brain fog (that is, they might not detect the absence of the condition and produce false negatives) and may not determine the severity of brain fog.

A new study suggested conflicting findings in studies on brain fog might be due to the brain functions assessed by different tests. People with both mild and more severe cases of covid might experience problems with processing speed, reasoning, verbal and overall performance, but no problems with memory. So studies that use tests for memory are less likely to show the effects of brain fog, no matter the severity.

Outside of scientific studies, brain fog diagnosis is most likely to be based on the symptoms and experiences people report once other causes, such as not sleeping enough, stress or hormonal changes, have been ruled out.

If you think you may be experiencing brain fog, it would be worthwhile to note down your symptoms and track them over several weeks, alongside any changes in stress, diet or sleep. This information can help your doctor understand your symptoms and help you manage them.

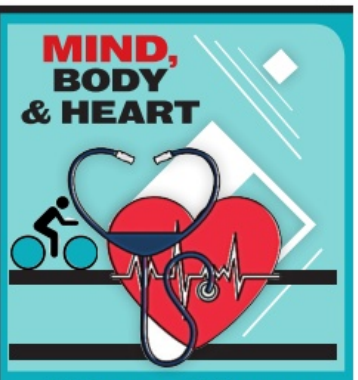
How to manage

For people experiencing brain fog, developing coping strategies and prioritising time to rest may help to manage symptoms. Coping strategies could involve making lists, using visual reminders (such as calendars, digital alerts and timers), and altering work duties where possible.

Clinical trials are underway for naltrexone, a medication used for alcohol and opioid drug addiction, which has shown promise in reducing brain fog. While not currently available as a brain fog treatment in Australia, initial research in Ireland shows it is safe and effective in low doses.

Aside from getting enough sleep, people are often encouraged to holistically approach recovery from brain fog. This means looking at their entire health picture and prioritising exercise and a healthy diet. If you are concerned about brain fog, your GP can refer you to a neurologist or neuropsychologist for further assessment and management.

By Sarah Hellewell, Curtin University, The Conversation



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

My husband and I are in our late 30s with two young children. We've always been a try-anything-once kind of couple. When things got a bit boring in the bedroom after we had kids, we decided to try having an open relationship.
The rules were, it was only sex (no emotional attachments) and we had to be honest with each other if we'd slept with someone.
Things were OK for a while, in fact it improved our sex life 100%.
However, I'm now devastated as my husband has told me he's falling in love with someone he's slept with on a number of occasions.
I got angry and chucked him out and he's staying with his brother. He doesn't want to leave me and our family home, but seems to want to carry on seeing this woman.

COLEEN SAYS

Oh dear. You've gambled and it hasn't worked out.
Look, an open relationship is always a risk. Yes, I'm sure there are couples who make it work, but nine times out of 10 it ends in tears.
I think it's right he's moved out because I think you need some space to think about what's happened and how you deal with it.
He's crossed the line – the agreement was sex without emotional attachment.
Usually, when people decide on an open relationship, it's not sex with the same person over and over again because that's forming a relationship.
If you think you want to try to make your marriage work, then please don't agree to letting him have his cake and eat it. I don't think an open relationship is ever the answer for a struggling couple. I think it would have been better if you'd made an effort to leave or sort things out on the sex front between just the two of you.
Counselling might help, but you must put the idea of an open relationship on ice.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

Dalit couple, son shot dead
A Dalit couple and their son were shot dead allegedly by six persons over a dispute in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district on Tuesday morning, police said

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CCI slaps ₹936.44 cr fine on Google for Playstore policies

Apart from penalty, cease-and-desist order also issued against tech giant

#New Delhi

After slapping Google with a Rs 1,337 crore fine for anti-competitive practices related to Android mobile devices five days ago, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Tuesday imposed a further penalty of Rs 936.44 crore on the tech giant for abusing its dominant position with respect to its Play Store policies, apart from issuing a cease-and-desist order.

The Commission also directed Google to modify its conduct within a defined timeline.

Based on its assessment, the CCI said it found Google to be dominant in the markets for licensable OS for smart mobile devices and market for app stores for Android smart mobile OS, in India.

The competition watchdog said selling in-app digital goods constitutes an important means for app developers to monetise their creations/innovations. However, for in-app digital goods to be distributed to purchasing users, developers must configure their apps so that all purchases of the digital goods go through Google's payment system, which processes the transactions.

This is the second big penalty on Google in the past few days

The antitrust body said Google's Play Store policies require the App developers to exclusively and mandatorily use Google Play's Billing System (GPBS) not only for receiving payments for Apps (and other digital products like audio, video, games) distributed/sold through the Google Play Store but also for certain in-app purchases i.e. purchases made by users of Apps after they have downloaded/ purchased the App from the Play Store.

Further, app developers cannot, within an app, provide users with a direct link to a webpage containing an alternative payment method or use language that encourages a user to purchase the digital item outside of the app (anti-steering provisions), it said.

CCI said if the app developers do not comply with Google's policy of using GPBS, they are not permitted to list their apps on the Play Store and thus, would lose out the vast pool of potential customers in the form of Android users.

It said making access to the Play Store dependent on mandatory usage of GPBS for paid apps and in-app purchases is one-sided and arbitrary and devoid of any legitimate business interest.

The app developers are left bereft of the inherent choice to use payment processor of their liking from the open market.

The CCI has also examined the allegations of exclusion of rival UPI apps as effective payment options on Play Store. It was found that Google Pay has been integrated with intent flow methodology whereas other UPI apps can be used through collect flow methodology. – ANI

Coimbatore car blast: UAPA against accused

#Chennai

Sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) have been invoked against the accused in the Coimbatore car blast case that took place on Sunday early morning, killing the driver instantly, officials said on Tuesday.

The developed came after 75 kg of explosive material were seized from the homes of all the accused, including deceased Jameesha Mubin.

Five youths - Mohammed Talka, Mohammed Azharuddin, Mohammed Navas Ismail, Mohammed Riyas, and Firoze Ismail were arrested. Talka is the son of Nawas Khan, brother of the founder of Al Uma and 1998 Coimbatore serial blast accused, SA Basha.

The car blast took place when one of the two gas cylinders in the car exploded. – IANS

The site where the cylinder exploded inside a car, on Sunday

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Sorry says Meta, fixes 2-hr of WhatsApp separation anxiety

#New Delhi

WhatsApp services were back on after the popular messaging app faced a major global outage that prevented users from sending or receiving text and video messages for almost two hours.

Meta, which owns the popular messaging app, said it has fixed the glitch, and the service was back.

The unexplained outage prevented users from the UK to India from sending or receiving messages. Outage detection website DownDetector confirmed that WhatsApp was not working for many users across multiple regions. WhatsApp Web, the app's web version, used by many on their desktops and laptops, was also hit by the outage. "We know people had trouble sending messages on WhatsApp today. We've fixed the issue and apologise for any inconvenience," a Meta company spokesperson said.

According to Downdetector, WhatsApp faced problems since 3:17 AM EDT (12:47 pm). Users in Asia, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Europe experienced the issue while sending and receiving texts and videos on WhatsApp.

This was WhatsApp's first major outage since the October 5 snag that took down WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook together,

Users could not send or receive messages on WhatsApp

affecting millions of users for several hours before services were restored.

Tuesday's outage happened ahead of a partial solar eclipse that was to begin at 2.28 pm. The two events are, however, not linked.

Amid an extended period of festivities in India comprising Diwali and Bhai Dooj, users began experiencing and reporting disruption of services on the popular messaging platform on Tuesday.

Meta did not say what led to the outage. The outage meant that messages were no longer transmitted to the server and users could not send messages.

When the outage was reported, Meta said it was trying to fix the problem. "We're aware that some people are currently having trouble sending messages and we're working to restore WhatsApp for everyone as quickly as possible."

At one point during the outage on Tuesday, over 29,000 reports were flagged by users on Downdetector. Downdetector's heatmap was showing WhatsApp users in major cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Kolkata, were impacted by the snag.

#Whatsappdown began trending on Twitter soon after, and many took to the microblogging platform to share memes. – PTI

New UK PM Sunak unveils top team as historic tenure begins

A day in the world of British politics is a long time: Learn who said what

Britain's new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak stands outside Number 10 Downing Street, in London on Tuesday

#London

Rishi Sunak on Tuesday became Britain's third prime minister this year and the first person of colour to lead the former imperial power, vowing to overcome the economic crisis provoked by the "mistakes" of Liz Truss's calamitous 49-day tenure.

In his first order of business, Sunak retained Jeremy Hunt as chancellor of the exchequer, bidding to keep financial markets on side after Truss's budget plans shocked investors.

Sunak, a practising Hindu who at 42 is Britain's youngest leader since 1812, became the ruling Conservatives' new leader on Monday after a prior stint as chancellor himself.

Addressing the nation in Downing Street Tuesday shortly after his appointment by King Charles III, Sunak said the country faced "profound economic crisis". "I will unite our country -- not with words, but with action," Sunak said, capping the latest extraordinary twist in UK politics following Boris Johnson's exit in July.

Departing shortly before, Truss wished him "every success" -- and said she remained "more convinced than ever" that Britain needed to be "bold" in confronting the challenges it faced.

Sunak countered that though she was motivated by a well-intentioned desire to kick-start growth, her tax-cutting measures were "mistakes nonetheless".

"And I have been elected as leader of my party and your prime minister in part to fix them," he said.

"I will unite our country — not with words, but with action," Sunak said, capping the latest extraordinary twist in UK politics

"And that work begins immediately. I will place economic stability and confidence at the heart of this government's agenda," he added, helping to drive the pound more than one percent higher against the dollar Tuesday.

Sunak's appointment followed rival contender Penny Mordaunt failing to secure enough nominations from Tory MPs, and Johnson dramatically aborting a comeback attempt late on Sunday.

Breaking his silence, Johnson offered his "full and wholehearted support" to Sunak -- having privately blamed his ex-minister for toppling him in July.

Sunak in turn praised Johnson, and vowed to build on the election-winning promises that earned the Conservatives a big victory in 2019, despite their dismal standing in polling today against the opposition Labour party.

But Sunak also issued a coded reminder of the many scandals that brought Johnson down, vowing his own premiership would offer "integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level".

Who is in, who isn't

- Jeremy Hunt retained as Chancellor, Ben Wallace as Defence Secretary; Dominic Raab is Deputy Prime Minister and Suella Braverman is Home Secretary
- James Cleverly was reappointed as Britain's foreign minister, becoming the most senior ally of Liz Truss in Sunak government
- Nadhim Zahawi was named Conservative Party Chairman as well as Minister Without Portfolio
- Jacob Rees-Mogg resigned as Business Secretary, Brandon Lewis as Justice Secretary, Kit Malthouse as Education Secretary and Sri Lankan origin Ranil Jayawardena as Environment Secretary

In other cabinet appointments, Sunak retained James Cleverly as foreign secretary, and brought close ally Dominic Raab back as deputy prime minister and justice secretary. He also retained Ben Wallace in the defence brief.

In his Downing Street speech, Sunak pledged unstinting support for Ukraine even while warning of "difficult" budget choices ahead.

US President Joe Biden called the appointment of the first British-Indian prime minister "groundbreaking" and "pretty outstanding". "Together, I look forward to enhancing our cooperation on issues critical to global security and prosperity, including continuing our strong support for Ukraine," Biden said in a tweet. European leaders offered their own congratulations, while Irish premier Micheal Martin reminded Sunak of their "shared responsibility" to safeguard peace in Northern Ireland following tensions under Johnson and Truss.

Labour leader Keir Starmer praised Sunak on "making history as the first British-Asian PM".

But he added: "The Tories have crashed the economy, with low wages, high prices and a cost-of-living crisis. The public needs a fresh start and a say on Britain's future."

Sunak has rebuffed opposition calls for a snap general election after becoming the latest leader who lacks a direct mandate from the electorate, but he promised to govern on the basis of the 2019 manifesto. Pollster Ipsos said that 62 percent of British voters want an election by the end of the year.

Britain's Conservative-supporting media hailed the appointment of Sunak, a wealthy descendant of immigrants from India and East Africa. **PTI**

Spotlight is on Akshata, yet again

Rishi Sunak's wife whose tax status on income from outside the UK had triggered a controversy, earned ₹126. 61 cr as dividend from Infosys

Akshata Murty, Britain's incoming Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's wife whose tax status on income from outside the UK had triggered a controversy, earned Rs 126.61 crore (USD 15.3 million) in dividend income in 2022 from her shareholding in India's second-largest IT firm Infosys.

Murty, daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, held 3.89 crore shares, or 0.93 per cent, of Infosys at the end of September, according to company filings with the stock exchanges.

Her holding is worth Rs 5,956 crore (about USD 721 million) at Tuesday's trading price of Rs 1,527.40 on the BSE.

Infosys paid Rs 16 per share final dividend for 2021-22 fiscal on May 31, this year. For the current year, the firm this month announced an interim dividend of Rs 16.5, according to the company's stock exchange filings.

The two dividends totalled Rs 32.5 per share or Rs 126.61 crore for Akshata.

Infosys is among the best dividend-paying companies in India. In 2021, it paid a total of Rs 30 per share dividend, which would have given Akshata a total of Rs 119.5 crore in that calendar year. **PTI**

Proud of him: Narayana Murthy on Rishi Sunak

#New Delhi

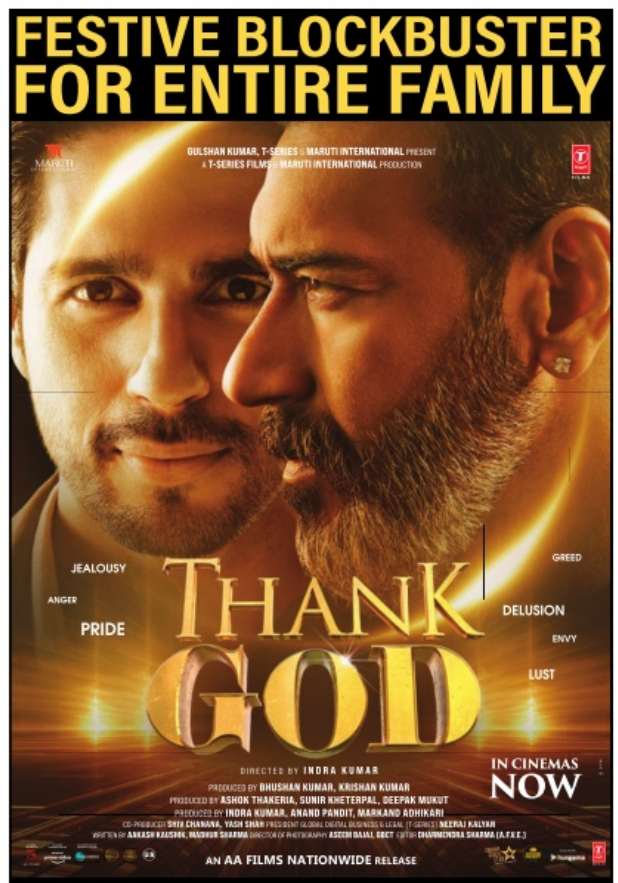
We are proud of him and wish him success," Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy said in his first comments on the elevation of his son-in-law Rishi Sunak as Britain's prime minister.

Sunak, 42, on Sunday won the race to lead the Conservative Party and is now set to become Britain's first prime minister of Indian origin.

"Congratulations to Rishi. We are proud of him and we wish him success," Murthy said in first reaction emailed to PTI. "We are confident he will do his best for the people of the United Kingdom."

The son of a pharmacist mother and doctor father, Sunak was educated at one of England's most renowned schools, Winchester, and then Oxford. He spent three years at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and later gained an MBA from Stanford in California, where he met his wife Akshata Murthy, daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy.

He married Akshata in 2009 and the couple has two daughters. **PTI**



PVR CINEMAS {Phoenix Marketcity, 9:15, 12:55, 4:10, 7:00, 10:15 p.m. | Forum Mall, 9:55, 10:20, 12:45, 4:15, 6:50, 10:30 p.m. | Orion Mall, 10:25, 1:00, 4:30, 7:40, 10:30 p.m. | Orion Uptown Mall, 9:55, 12:45, 7:00 p.m. | MSR Regalia Mall, 9:50, 3:55, 7:20, 9:55 p.m. | Spirit Mall, 4:35, 9:50 p.m. | VR Mall, 10:00, 3:25, 4:05, 7:10, 9:20, 10:10 p.m. | Vaishnavi Saphire Mall, 9:50, 1:15, 3:55, 7:10 p.m. | Superplex Vegacity Mall, 10:05, 1:10, 4:10, 6:40, 10:15 p.m. | @ GT Mall, Magadi Road, 1:35, 7:40 p.m. | Aura Cinema, 12:15, 6:55 p.m.} | INOX CINEMAS {Lido, 10:05, 1:25, 5:15, 10:30 p.m. | Brookefield Mall, 9:25, 2:40, 7:55 p.m. | Forum Value Mall, 9:10, 2:25, 7:35, 10:20 p.m. | Garuda Mall, 10:10, 1:35, 5:05, 6:55, 10:10 p.m. | Mantri Mall, 10:45, 1:15, 4:30, 10:10 p.m. | Central Mall, JP Nagar, 1:25, 7:15, 10:00 p.m. | Garuda, Yelahanka, 12:55, 7:25 p.m. | Swagath Mall, 9:15, 4:45 p.m. | Galleria Mall, RMZ Yelahanka, 11:05, 1:40, 7:35, 10:10 p.m. | SBR Horizon, 9:00, 11:25, 2:00, 7:35, 10:10 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {ETA Mall, 10:30, 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10 p.m. | Orion East Mall, 10:20, 1:20, 10:05 p.m. | Royal Meenakshi Mall, 10:00, 1:25, 4:05, 7:00, 10:10 p.m. | Shantiniketan, 10:00, 11:00, 12:40, 4:40, 6:45, 10:20 p.m. | SJR Spectrum Mall, 10:00, 1:05, 3:45, 9:45 p.m. | Sigma Mall, 10:45, 6:55 p.m.} | GOPALAN {Innovation Mall, 10:00, 5:15, 9:30 p.m. | Arcade Mall, 7:30 p.m. | Signature Mall, 6:00, 10:00 p.m. | Grand Mall, 10:00, 5:30, 9:30 p.m. | Legacy Mall, 12:30, 7:00, 10:00 p.m.} | INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX {Marathahalli, 10:10, 2:15, 7:30 p.m.} | KINO CINEMAS {Seegehalli Road, 1:15, 9:00 p.m.} | SWAGATH SHANKARNAG {M. G. Road, 1 Show} | ROCKLINE CINEMAS | MUKTA A2 {Uttarahalli, 1 Show} | ANAND THEATRE {Tanny Road, 2 Shows} | SANTOSH THEATRE {RPC Layout, Daily 4 Shows} | VINAYAKA THEATRE {DJ Halli, 2 Shows} | ANJAN THEATRE {Magadai Road, 9:30 p.m.} | BHARATH CINEMAS {Mangalore, 10:00, 2:45, 10:00 p.m. | Manipal, 11:30, 2:45, 8:00 p.m. | Shivamoga, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30 p.m.} | PVR CINEMAS {Fiza Mall, Mangalore, 12:50, 7:10 p.m. | Forum Mall, Mysore, 1:25, 7:15, 9:30 p.m. | Garuda Mall, Mysore, 1:10, 7:25 p.m.} | INOX CINEMAS {Central, Manipal, 9:50, 5:25, 7:45 p.m. | SS Mall, Tumkur, 10:35, 4:25, 10:20 p.m. | Satyam Mall, Mysore, 9:05, 4:15, 7:35 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {City Centre Mall, Mangalore, 10:30, 3:20, 7:20 p.m.} | SRINIVASA THEATRE {SG Palya, 2 Shows} | VISION CINEMA {Mysore, 2 Shows} | DRC {Mysore, 1 Show} | CINE GALAXY MOVIES {Suratkal, 9:30, 5:15 p.m.} | MOVIETIME {Davangere, 10:00, 3:00, 8:10 p.m.} | TRINETRA THEATRE {Davangere, Daily 4 Shows} | BALAJI DELUXE THEATRE {Bannimantapa, Daily 4 Shows} | JAYALAKSHMI THEATRE {Mandya, Daily 4 Shows} | DIANA THEATRE {Udupi, Daily 4 Shows}.

FOR ANY CHANGES OR CANCELLATION IN SHOW TIMINGS, PLEASE CONTACT THE THEATRE

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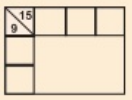
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

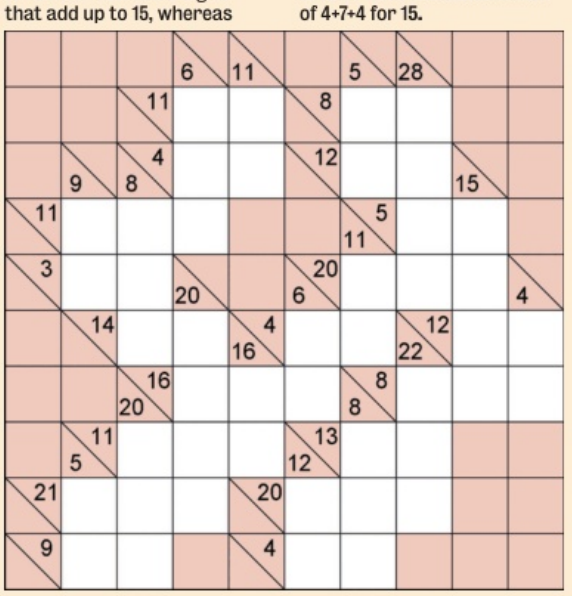
For every large number choose one of the small numbers (the single digits) such that when multiplied and then added the result is 87387
(2859, 1288, 5277, 4571, 3064) & (6, 7, 3, 8, 5)

Kakuro

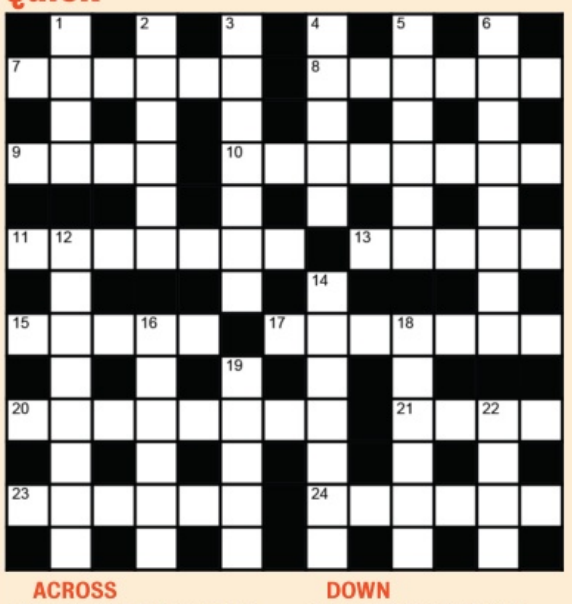
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Trigonometric function (6)
8 Aftermath, outcome or consequence (6)
9 Yes (4)
10 An optical aid (8)
11 Indian flat bread (7)
13 Kickback (5)
15 Jammed (5)
17 Disentangle (7)
20 Merry-go-round (8)
21 You will find the remnants of his fort in the City Market area (4)
23 Expose a fraud (6)
24 Disembowelled or destroyed by fire (6)

DOWN

1 Having no company (4)
2 Black Eyed Peas' genre? (6)
3 Online location (7)
4 Wharves (5)
5 Inn-yard's horse-handler (6)
6 Feasible, practical or viable (8)
12 A state of trouble (3,5)
14 Simile, metaphor (7)
16 Refrain (6)
18 Crafty or sly (6)
19 City in Japan (5)
22 Expression of relief (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS H

KM ZKLZ HLV KLTM WLZSM-
VHM HLV KLTM GKLZ KM GSNN.

Linemaro

I waited my whole life to date the girl of my dreams, but I dumped her when I saw you

Mindchow

You can tell the quality of a person by how they treat people they don't need

Joke of the day

A good wife always forgives her husband when she's wrong

Loop

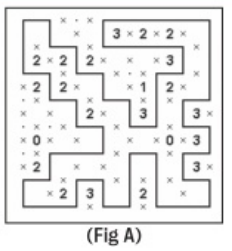
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

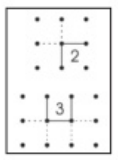
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

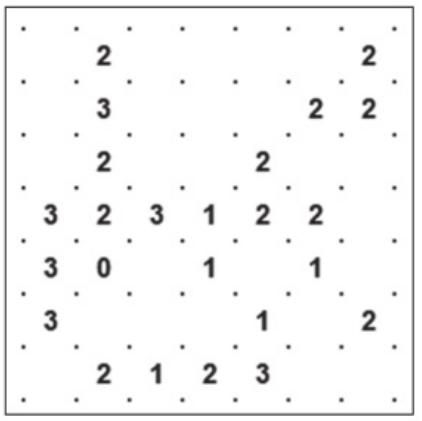
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



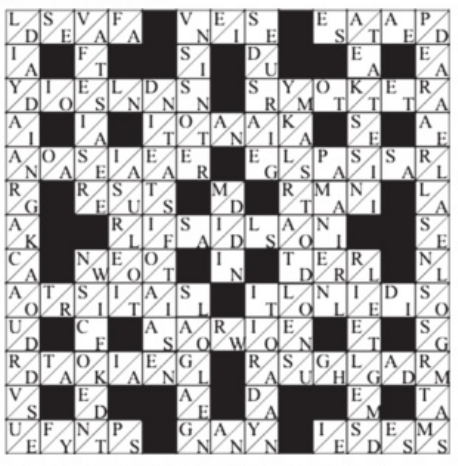
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



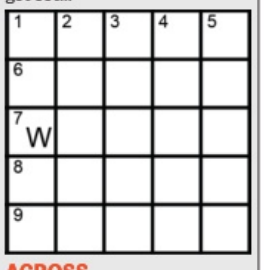
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

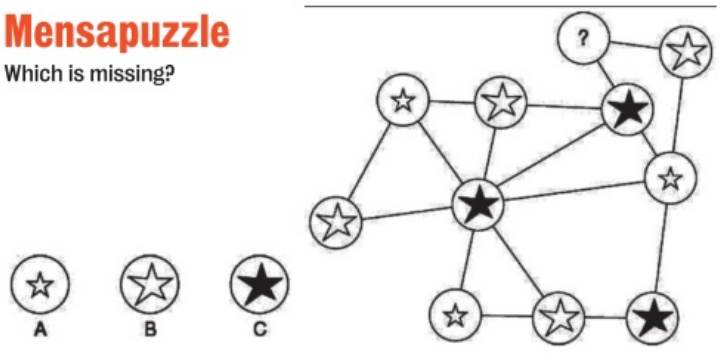
1 Sones; 6 Le Pap;
7 Wider; 8 Amain;
9 In Beg

DOWN

1 Bwana; 2 I peon;
3 Grips; 4 Emile;
5 Andes

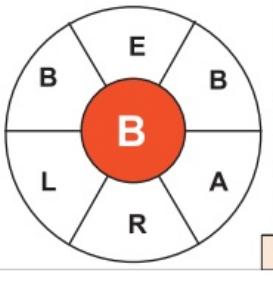
Mensapuzzle

Which is missing?



A B C

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 12 Good; 14 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

							6	4
	2		9		3	8	1	
	6				5			
		7		5				6
		5				9		
2				7		1		
			6				8	
	1	6	4		8		2	
7	9							

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 14
6 7 8 9

Medium = 7
1 5 6 9

Hard = 6
1 3 5 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Phone is smaller. 2. Newspaper is longer. 3. Desk is wider. 4. Doorknob is missing. 5. Thumb is missing from top of paper. 6. In box has more papers in it.

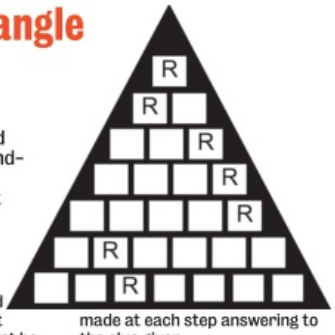
Riddler

When you curtail a word, you remove the last letter and still have a valid word. You will be given clues for the two words, longer word first.

1. Make again -> A colour
2. What person (objective) -> What person (subjective)
3. Close together; slow to learn -> Lairs
4. Therefore -> Unit of energy

Alpha triangle

1 18th letter
2 Again , abbr.
3 Musical ability
4 Regan's father
5 Composer Edward
6 Weave in a diamond-shaped pattern
7 For the most part



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

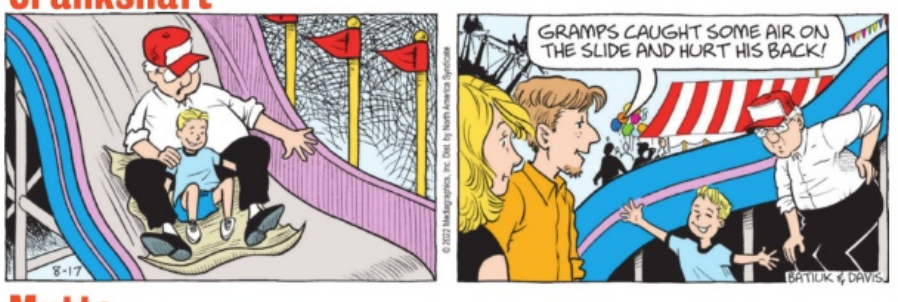
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

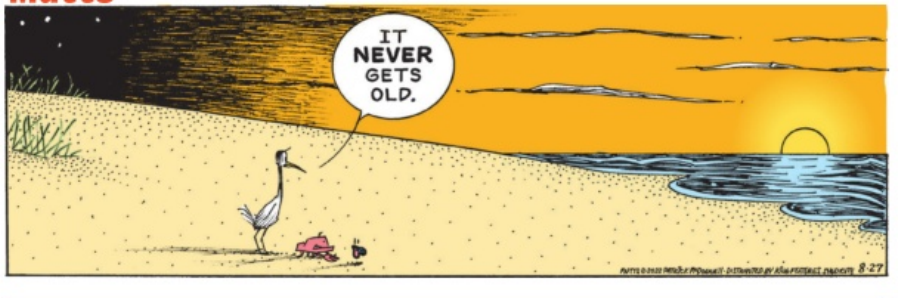
Hart of the city

WHERE IS EVERYONE?
PROBABLY OUT PLAYING MYSTICS THE GROUPING.
IT'S A GREAT GAME, BUT WHY NOW?
WELL, YOU GOTTA GET GOOD IF YOU WANNA BE INVITED TO...
YOU KNOW.
ACTUALLY, NO. WE DON'T KNOW!

Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you are blessed by the moon and may be able to make quick decisions on the professional front. You may expect to get new opportunities in terms of business, which may boost your confidence levels. You are likely to start some new innovation with the help of your business partner.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon. You may feel healthy and chronic health issues may be cured now. Your children's health will be okay now. Money which was stuck somewhere is likely to be recovered now. You may also repay your debt.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are blessed by the moon, which may give you peace of mind. You may become decisive, so you may grab any opportunity without a second thought. Past experiences may help you sustain many situations and show you the right path. Lovebirds may enjoy happy moments. Job aspirants are likely to get a suitable job with the help of friends.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel dull. Detachment from responsibilities can make you upset. You may not be able to fulfil your commitments, which may affect your prestige. You may be a victim of arrogance. it may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from something creative at work.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may be enthusiastic. Your focus towards your goals may be very good. You may easily achieve your target. You are likely to go for short work-related trips, which may give you benefits in the near future. Your subordinate staff may help you to complete an important project. Disputes with your siblings may be resolved.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. You will plan to invest more capital into your family business, which may boost it in the near future. You may expect to get some rewards due to your social services. You may expect to hear some good news in your family, which may create a joyful environment. You may also enjoy some delicious food.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may feel happy, and your health is good, which may give you inner strength and self confidence. Your subconscious mind may not allow you to manipulate a messy task. Your social prestige is likely to be increased. With the help of your hard work and creativity, you may start some innovative tasks.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be unhappy and disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, otherwise you may face some losses due to your harsh way of speaking while you are talking with anyone. You are advised to avoid long trips and rash driving. You should keep yourself away from bay areas or oceans.

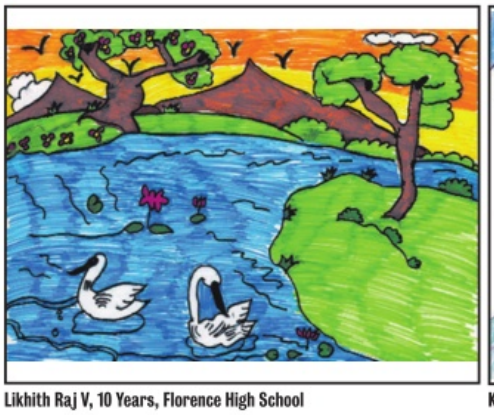
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today there may be peace in your mind. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in your family life. Singles are likely to find a suitable match. You may expect to get ample opportunities at work. You may notice some progress in your life.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may be able to implement your plans with the help of your strong network at work. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your hard work. There may be good understanding between you and your spouse, which may increase harmony in your domestic life. Your boss may appreciate your hard work.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you are blessed by the moon. Last days' messy situation is under control. You may re-initiate your postponed works now. With the help of elders, you may get rewards for your hard work. There are some gains in your business which may boost your financial health. You may expect some unexpected opportunity, which may boost your business or work. You may also plan for overseas travel.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may not feel well as you might have health issues which may affect your professional and domestic life. You are likely to be upset due to your spouse having health issues. Your patience may be tested many times. You are advised not to make investments in new business projects, otherwise you may face losses. Students are advised to avoid day dreaming.

KIDZONE



Likhith Raj V, 10 Years, Florence High School

Ketaki Kumbhar, 6 Years, Kendriya Vidyalaya

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
7*2859 + 8*1288 + 3*5277 + 5*4571 + 6*3064 = 87387

RIDDLER
1. Redo -> Red,
2. Whom -> Who,
3. Dense -> Dens,
4. Ergo -> Erg

QUOTE UNCODE
He that can have patience can have what he will.

BULL'S EYE
able, abler, babble, babe, bale, baler, barb, bare, bear, blab, BLABBER, blare, blear, rabble

FAST FIVE

N	O	S	E	S
A	P	P	L	E
W	I	R	E	D
A	N	I	M	A
B	E	G	I	N

STRIKE OUT

L	E	A	F	V	I	S	S	T	E	P				
A		T		U		A		A						
Y	I	E	L	D	S	S	M	O	K	E	R			
I		A		I	O	N	I	A		E		A		
N	O	S	I	E	R	R	E	S	P	I	A	L		
G		E	S	T		D		T	A	N		L		
A		L	I	A	I	S	O	N				E		
C		W	E	T		N		D	E	R		L		
O	T	I	T	I	S		T	O	L	E	D	O		
U		C		A	A	R	O	N		E		G		
R	A	K	I	N	G		A	S	H	L	A	R		
L	E	A	F	T	S		N	A	Y		I	D	E	M
S		E		A		D		E		B		A		
T		R		A		O		U		H				
C	A	R	O	U	S	E	L		T	I	P	U		
W		H		O		A		S						
S	T	U	C	K		U	N	R	A	V	E	L		
		O			E		A			L				
C	H	A	P	A	T	I		B	R	I	B	E		
		O		I		S		E		I				
Y	E	A	H		S	P	Y	G	L	A	S	S		
N		P		B		A		T		S				
C	O	S	I	N	E		U	P	S	H	O	T		
L		H		W		O		O		P				

QUICK

R		S		A		Y		E		W				
D	E	B	U	N	K		G	U	T	T	E	D		
	T		R		A		O		U		H			
C	A	R	O	U	S	E	L		T	I	P	U		
	W		H		O		A		S					
S	T	U	C	K		U	N	R	A	V	E	L		
		O			E		A			L				
C	H	A	P	A	T	I		B	R	I	B	E		
		O		I		S		E		I				
Y	E	A	H		S	P	Y	G	L	A	S	S		
N		P		B		A		T		S				
C	O	S	I	N	E		U	P	S	H	O	T		
L		H		W		O		O		P				

MENSA PUZZLE
B: so that each connected straight line of three circles contains one each of the three types of star.

SUDOKU

7	9	8	3	2	6	4	5	1
3	1	6	4	9	8	7	2	5
4	5	2	6	1	7	3	8	9
2	4	9	3	7	6	1	5	8
6	3	5	1	8	4	9	7	2
1	8	7	2	5	9	4	3	6
8	6	1	7	4	5	2	9	3
5	2	4	9	6	3	8	1	7
9	7	3	8	2	1	5	6	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Re, Ear, Lear, Large, Argyle, Largely.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 7 + 9 - 8 = 14
Medium
9 - 6 - 1 + 5 = 7
Hard
5 - 3 + 1 x 2 = 6

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Joaquin, Rooney in The Island

Hollywood star couple Joaquin Phoenix and Rooney Mara will feature together in Polish director Pawlikowski's next film. Tentatively titled The Island, the movie is loosely based on a true story

COUPLE GOALS

Check out 5 celeb pairs who stunned us with their festive looks

Deepawali was celebrated with great pomp and enthusiasm in B-Town. Many Bollywood celebrities threw lavish Diwali parties like before which were attended by who's who of Bollywood. While pictures and videos from these lavish parties have been doing the rounds on social media, we picked out lovely photos of five stunning couples of Bollywood you can't miss. Take a look...

Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja

For new mommy Sonam Kapoor this year's Diwali was super special as she celebrated it not only with her family but also with her baby boy Vayu. The actress shared some gorgeous pictures with her fans on Instagram from her Diwali photoshoot. Dressed in a white suit and red dupatta, Sonam looked stunning as ever as she struck a pose with her husband Anand Ahuja. Sharing a reel of herself modelling the look, she wrote, "With blessings from Maa Lakshmi, Saraswati, Durga and Ganesha, may your life be filled with light. "Good morning and happy Diwali."

Hrithik Roshan and Saba Azad

Ever since Hrithik Roshan introduced Saba Azad as his girlfriend at Karan Johar's 50th birthday bash, they have been painting the town red with their love story. The love birds make sure they celebrate family occasions and festivals together with their families and Diwali was no exception. Saba shared a sweet Diwali selfie with her beau where they are all smiles for the camera. Twinning in white outfits, the lovebirds look simply gorgeous together as they wished their fans on Diwali.

Malaika Arora and Arjun Kapoor

Malaika Arora and Arjun Kapoor are one of the good-looking couples we have in Bollywood. While Malaika never fails to make heads turn every time she steps out, Arjun complements her just perfectly with his dashing looks like in this birthday picture above from a few days before. Keeping up with the same, the couple stunned one and all with their gorgeous appearance at a Diwali party.

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt

Alia Bhatt, who is expecting her first child with her husband Ranbir Kapoor, kept her Diwali celebrations pretty low key this year. The due date of the mommy-to-be is nearing and she is resting it out until the baby's arrival. However, the actress did attend the Lakshmi puja with Ranbir and Neetu Kapoor. Her mother Soni Razdan and sister Shaheen Bhatt were also present at the do. This picture of Ranbir holding Alia close as they performed the puja is simply too sweet for words.

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal

Like many others in Bollywood, Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal celebrated Diwali with their friends and family. This festive season was extra special for the couple as this was their first Diwali after their wedding in December 2021. Apart from attending grand Diwali bashes in B-town, Katrina and Vicky also performed Lakshmi puja at their new home together. Their gorgeous Diwali photos are a sight for the sore eyes of their fans.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

The villain

After working under director TS Nagabharana for a few years, Rajeev Chandrakanth has graduated as a director with Mariguddada Gaddedharigalu. The script also written by Rajeev is its USP. "Generally, directors or script writers think of the hero and write the script, but I wrote it keeping in mind a person known for playing the villain. This movie is about incidents that took place during the 1990s," said Rajeev .

Nagabharana released the teaser and poster of this movie at Renukamba Theater at Malleswaram. "Director or hero alone cannot make a movie. To make a movie, teamwork is very important," Nagabharana said.

According to the director, the movie conveys a message that a person who does wrong things cannot escape punishment.

Big debut

Karrthik Adwait, who handled the megaphone for Tamil movie Paayum Oli Nee Enakku, is set to make his debut as a director in Sandalwood. Vikram Prabhu, the son of veteran actor Prabhu, plays the lead while Vani Bhojan is paired opposite him. The movie is scheduled to be released shortly.

Hat-trick hero Shivarajkumar has agreed to play the lead in the yet-untitled movie which is expected to be made in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi. An announcement is awaited to be made on Wednesday in this regard.

Director Karrthik told BM that post-production work of this movie is in progress and it is expected to be released in December. About the pan-India film with Shivarajkumar in the lead, the director said it would be unique. "The movie belongs to the new age genre. We are trying to get prominent actors from Malayalam, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu on board. So far nothing is finalised except Dr Shivarajkumar," he said.

This will be Shivarajkumar's second pan-India film after Ghost.